

□ 1415

TALK OF DEFAULT MORE RECKLESS THAN GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the only thing more reckless than a Government shutdown is talk of default, and I mean talk. Talk alone on this subject is playing with fire. Secretary Rubin is accused of bluffing. The real question is are we bluffing?

The market opened today down 50 points. It is beginning to level off. But I do not like this game of chicken and I hope my colleagues do not. We have maligned the Secretary, but I think we should thank him for finding magic money. They language he is using this time is quite different and quite definitive and he concludes by saying I will not sell the Nation's gold, and I will not withhold taxpayers' refunds.

Now we are into whether we will have a clean or dirty debt limit bill. This gets us into the mode from which we have just ascended. Please, no more "deja vu all over again," not with the Nation's full faith and credit.

PRESIDENT CLINTON LONG ON PROMISES, SHORT ON KEEPING THOSE PROMISES

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President will deliver the State of the Union Address, and I am sure we will all hear a great speech tonight, because he always does give a great speech. But the fact is that also, just as usual, he will be long on promises and short on keeping those promises.

For example, in last year's State of the Union, President Clinton said and I quote, "We ought to help people raise their incomes immediately by lowering their taxes," end quote. But in reality he vetoed a middle-class family tax relief package.

Another example from last year's State of the Union. The President again, quote, "Nothing is done more to undermine our sense of common responsibility than our failed welfare system. It rewards welfare over work; it undermines family values," end quote. But in reality he vetoed the welfare reform bill.

Mr. Speaker, once again, President Clinton will probably give us a speech long on promises but short on results, just reinforcing the fact that he is the say-something and do-nothing liberal President.

PRESIDENT HAS AGREED TO A 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has agreed to a 7-year balanced budget using CBO numbers. The problem is that the Republicans do not want to protect the priorities that the President thinks are important, such as the environment, Medicare, Medicaid, and also education. I would like to pay particular attention to the environment.

The Republicans are saying they want this huge tax cut or tax break, yet they want to cut back on environment enforcement. They do not want to properly fund the Superfund Program to clean up toxic waste sites. In my home State of New Jersey, we have 114 Superfund sites, and a lot of those sites are not being cleaned up now and will not be cleaned up if the Republicans do not agree to fully fund the Superfund Program, which they have not agreed to do so far.

The President has stood strong. He agreed on a balanced budget and he agreed on the Republican terms, but he wants to protect the environment and he wants to make sure the Superfund Program moves forward so that in States like New Jersey those toxic waste sites that pose a direct threat to the health of many Americans who live nearby, he wants to make sure that those sites are cleaned up, and I commend him for it.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MUST REPRESENT THE CHILDREN

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we have three primary objectives. One is to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget; the second is to save our trust funds from insolvency, and ultimate bankruptcy, particularly Medicare; and our third objective is to transform our caretaking social and corporate welfare state into what I would call a caring opportunity society.

Our country has grown into debt from \$430 billion since the Vietnam War to \$4,900 billion. That has got to end. Adults, Members of Congress, are elected by adults to represent the children, and that is what we are about to do.

PRESIDENT CHIRAC DISREGARDS HEALTH AND WELFARE OF SOUTH PACIFIC

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, sometime next week President Chirac of France will be visiting Washington to meet with our President, and I understand there may even be a chance that he will address a joint session of

the Congress. Mr. Speaker, give me a break. This is the man with tremendous arrogance and disregard for the concerns of some 170 nations.

He totally disregarded the concerns of the health and welfare of some 27 million men, women, and children who live in the nations of the Pacific. He disregarded and decided to break the moratorium and has already exploded five nuclear bombs in atolls in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, by my last count, President Chirac and his predecessors have already exploded 182 nuclear bombs in the atmosphere and in 2 Pacific atolls. One of these atolls is a timed nuclear bomb, the equivalent of several Chernobyls that the French Government has forced upon the lives of the Pacific people. Is this fair, Mr. Speaker?

Shame on you, President Chirac of France. Shame on you for doing this to the Pacific people.

REPUBLICANS HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS TABLE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, House Budget Chairman JOHN KASICH said in November about the budget negotiations, and I quote, "Frankly, we do not ask for a lot. We ask for nothing more than a commitment to do this in a 7-year period. The priorities within that 7-year plan are negotiable."

Well, the President did exactly that, but now the Republicans want to move the goalpost in the middle of the game. Now the Republican leadership says that they will not negotiate on the budget priorities. What they want to do is to have a backroom deal on deep cuts in Medicare for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Where I come from a person's word is his or her bond. Mr. KASICH and other Members of the Republican majority gave their word that they would sit down and negotiate the details of the budget once the President produced a 7-year balanced budget. The President met the Republicans more than halfway, but instead of responding in kind, Republicans have walked away from the negotiating table, walking away from their promise to the President, but more importantly than that, walking away from their duty to the American people.

MEMORIAL TO ED WHITE, FORMER CHIEF CLERK TO REPORTERS OF DEBATES

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] to memorialize one of our staff who has passed away.